

respect to claims 5 to 8 and 12 to 14 which the Examiner objected to as being multiple dependent claims, it is apparent that the preliminary amendment filed with the application had been misplaced by the Patent Office and a copy of the preliminary amendment is enclosed herewith as well as a copy of the return receipt card showing that the preliminary amendment was filed. Therefore, withdrawal of this objection is requested.

Claims 1 to 4 and 9 to 11 were rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for the various reasons set forth in the office action. Presumably, claims 5 to 8 and 12 to 14 are also subject to this objection.

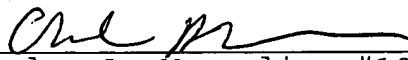
Applicants respectfully traverse these grounds of rejection since amended claims are believed to properly define the invention. Claim 1 has been amended to obviate the Examiner's objections to most of the recitations set therein. The term "it" no longer appears in the claims as well as the expression "these operations" and "this way" and "this therapeutic process". The sequential and conditional validation has been clarified and there is proper antecedent basis for the term "data". Claim 2 has been amended to recite that a password is put into a computer and the abbreviations have been replaced by the various terms which are supported by the specification on pages 9 to 11. Proper antecedent basis is now set forth in claim 4 and claim 9 has been amended to more clearly point out that it is drawn to an apparatus system and not to the process.

Claims 10 and 11 have been amended to remove the abbreviations. Therefore, the amended claims are believed to comply with 35 USC 112 and withdrawal of these grounds of rejection is requested.

Since the prior art was not applied to the claims, it is believed that the application is now in condition for acceptance and favorable reconsideration of the application is requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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CAM:ds
Enclosures



INSERTS A, B & C

INSERT A

PO: the screen page which provides the process operator
PE: screen page corresponding to a stage of process number i
EP: title
EA: retrospective analysis screen page
EC: certification screen page
EI: anomalies screen page

INSERT B

management of a preparation laboratory number n

INSERT C

treatment centers number n
cytapheresis services number n
collection centers number n
bacteriological testing laboratories

1M:sd May 12, 1999 410.016

THIBAUT et al.

PCT Date: December 17, 1997

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1 Forms in duplicate; Copy of
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Decl.; Executed PCT Assign-
r., Prel. Amend.; Information
EO Form 1449 & 5 references & 2
11 Entity Decl.; PCT/IP/A/416; PCT/
A/408; Annexe; PCT/IPEA/429; PCT/
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